Program: CIEE Advanced Liberal Arts & Liberal Arts, Fall

Keighley’s Majors: Genetics, Spanish

Academic Life: Initially, all the participants on my program took a two week intensive course that was designed to help improve your spoken and written Spanish. The rest of the semester we had the opportunity to take classes through CIEE at the study center with other people on our program, at the University of Seville with other American students from different programs, or directly enrolled in the University. Direct enroll was not required for my program, but I decided to take one course anyway. The non-direct enroll classes were taught by University professors who could speak English, which was nice when we really didn’t understand something. On the other hand, my direct enroll course with other Spaniards was taught by a professor who only spoke Spanish.

Housing: I lived in a home stay with an older woman (a “senora”) and getting to know her when we talked over dinner was really special. I learned a lot about the woman I was living with and also a lot about Spain’s past. The Guadalquivir river runs through Seville, creating a barrier between the main city and the district of Triana, where I lived. Triana was known for its fierce pride; you don’t say “Soy de Sevilla” (I am from Seville), you say “Soy de Triana.” The Triana heartbeat is unified and strong, shaped by decades of religious and cultural struggles.

Advice for Someone Considering Seville: If you’re looking for rich Spanish culture, deeply seated in traditions and national pride, Andalucia is the region for you! Seville celebrates with Flamenco dancing and tapas galore. It’s hard to not get caught up in the wonderful fusion of new and old in this city that doesn’t feel much larger than Madison. Academically, truly take time to consider what goals you have because both the LA and ALA programs have amazing perks.

“Keighley in front of the skyline of Seville

“I made amazing connections with people in Spain and I cannot wait to go back.”